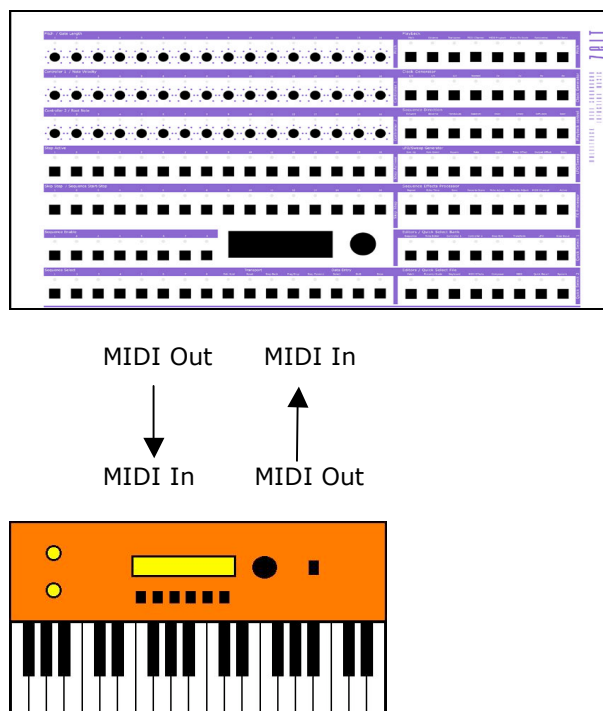


# 1 GETTING STARTED

Before you begin working with *ZEIT*, you'll need to connect the instrument up to the power supply and a suitable MIDI sound generator. This illustration shows the location of the power inlet and MIDI sockets on the rear panel of the sequencer.



*ZEIT* is a MIDI Only device. That is, it only generates MIDI data and doesn't generate any sound of its own. Consequently, in order to hear anything, you must first connect the sequencer up to a MIDI compatible sound generator or keyboard.

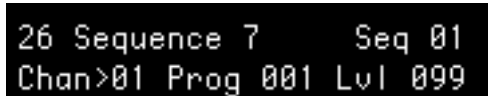


## 1.2 GETTING STARTED

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When you have connected your MIDI device to *ZEIT* as shown in the above diagram, set the MIDI receive channel on your keyboard to **Channel 1**. If you don't know how to do this then consult the User Guide that came with your module.

Locate the **Playback** strip on *ZEIT*'s front panel and press the button marked **MIDI**. The display will show the following screen:



```
26 Sequence 7      Seq 01
Chan>01 Prog 001 Lvl 099
```

The cursor points to the **Chan** field. Turn the *Data Wheel* until the MIDI Transmit channel for the current sequence is set to Channel 1.

Next, check that you have either headphones or an amplifier connected to the audio output on your MIDI device and the volume control on your device is set to the lowest volume.

Now press *Play/Stop* in the **Transport Control** strip and slowly increase the volume on your device. If the instruments are connected up properly, you should be able to hear one of the factory preset sequences playing on your sound generator. If you don't hear anything then check your connections to make sure that you haven't made a mistake.

In the next section, we'll talk about some of the terms we use to describe how *ZEIT* works. This will make it easier to understand the following sections.

### *Terminology*

The following is a short introduction to the terms we'll use frequently in the next couple of chapters. Even if you're familiar with step sequencers in general, we still recommend that you read this section to make sure we're all talking about the same thing.

*ZEIT* is an 8-track step sequencer. By this, we mean that the instrument can play 8 sequences at once on any of the 16 MIDI channels.

A **sequence** is made up of 3 data streams each consisting of 16 individual steps. The data streams are *hard wired* as one note channel and two MIDI controller channels. The note channel provides the raw MIDI notes and the controller channels provide articulation and expression to the sequence.

A **step** can be either *normal* or *skipped*. If a step is normal, then it can be either active, (i.e. the sequencer plays a note) or it can be muted (the sequencer plays a rest). If a step is skipped, then the sequencer “skips” over it.

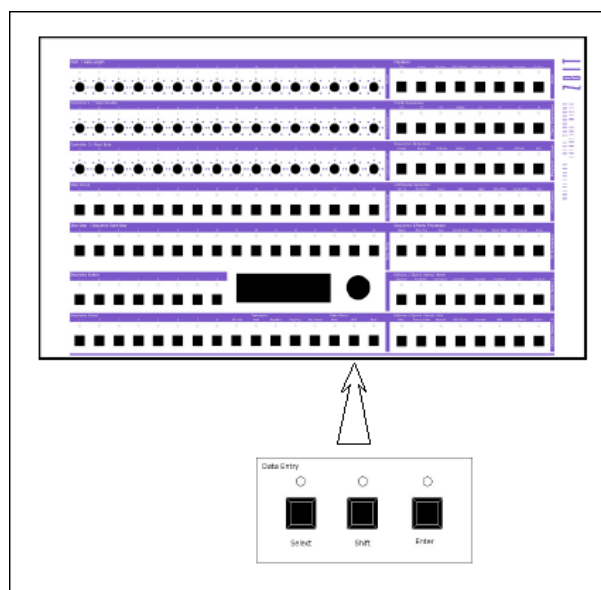
Finally, a **Patch** record groups together 8 sequences along with their associated settings for the MIDI effects unit, the playback tempo, the MIDI channel, which sequences are enabled and which are muted, etc. You can group together all of the sequences and their associated settings that make up a piece of music under one Patch record and save and quickly recall complex patches at a later date.

Next, we’ll look at *ZEIT*’s front panel.

### *The Front Panel*

At first glance, many users find *ZEIT* a little intimidating. However, if we look at the individual sections that make up the instrument you should be able to start finding your way around the sequencer very quickly.

Let’s begin with the **Transport Control** strip. This is at the bottom right of the front panel, beneath the main display and the Data Wheel.



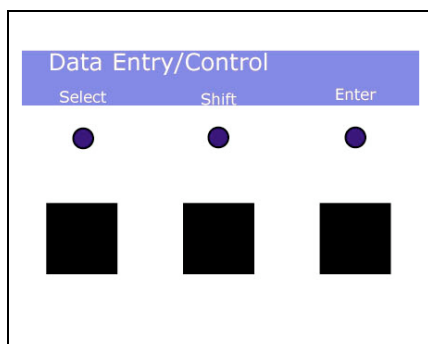
The Transport strip features four push buttons. From left to right these are the *Reset* button, *Step Backwards* button, *Play/Stop* button and the *Step Forwards* button.

The push buttons operate in exactly the same way as a traditional tape recorder transport mechanism. *Step backwards* rewinds the sequencer by one step, *Play/Stop* makes the sequencer stop and start, *Step Forward* advances the transport by one step and *Reset* forces all of the sequences back to their individual start steps.

## 1.4 GETTING STARTED

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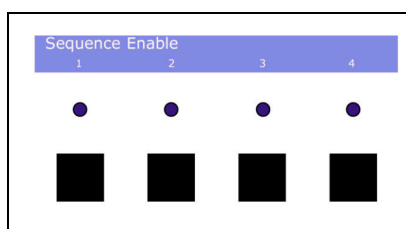
To the right of the Transport Control strip are the **Data Entry** push buttons. These are used for saving and loading records and for moving between individual fields in the editor screens. We'll talk in greater detail about these buttons in the *Menus and Data Entry* section later on in this chapter. For the moment, the most important push button in this section is the **Shift** push button because this button changes the function of many of the front panel controls. When the *Shift* button has been pressed, we say that the front panel is in *shift mode*. The LED above the button will flash approximately once per second when you're in shift mode. When you're in normal mode the LED is always *Off*.



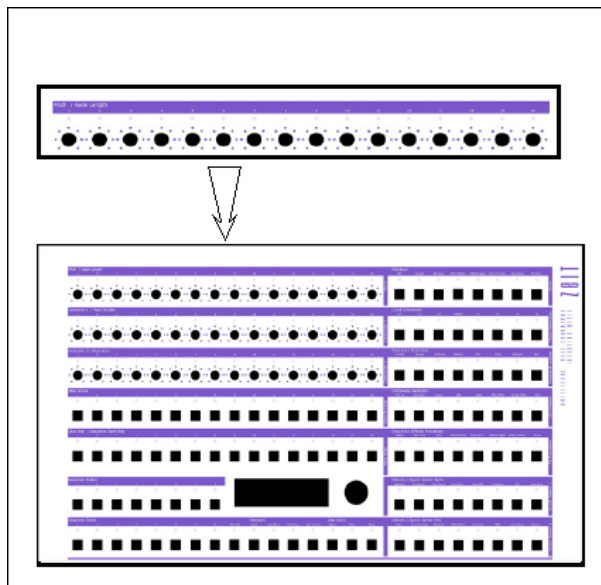
Above the Transport Control strip is the System Display and, to the right of the System Display is the **Data Entry Wheel**, which is usually referred to more simply as the *Data Wheel*. We use this for changing parameters, moving between editor pages and adjusting the playback speed.

To the left of the Transport Control strip is the **Sequence Select** strip. *ZEIT* can have 8 sequences playing at once and we use this strip to select the sequence we want to edit next. This sequence is often referred to as the *current sequence*. Try pressing these buttons. You should see how the display and front panel LEDs change every time you select a new sequence.

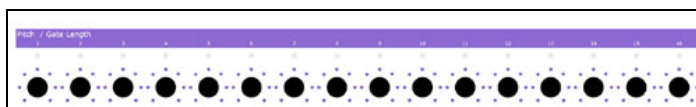
Above the Sequence Select Strip is the **Sequence Enable** strip. These push buttons are very important because they let you **enable** and **mute** any number of sequences very quickly.



Now let's jump to the very top of the instrument. The first bank of knobs are the **Note Pitch** knobs. We use these for changing the pitch of each individual step.



Below the Note Pitch knobs are two banks of **Controller** knobs. We use these for changing the MIDI Continuous Controller values.



Moving down to the first bank of push buttons, we come to the **Step Active** switches. If a step is *active* then the LED above the step is switched on. When the step is *muted* (a rest) then the LED is switched off.

Next, we come to the **Skipped Step** push buttons. If the associated LED is switched on then this step is said to be normal. When the LED is switched off, then this step is said to be skipped and is ignored by the sequencer.



Now we come to the **Playback** push buttons. This bank of push buttons does one of two things. Some buttons will set a specific playback parameter such as the clock speed or the sequence direction but others will take you directly to a page within one of the edit menus.

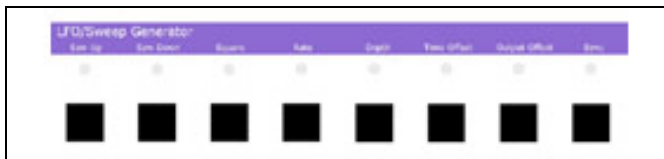
For instance, pressing the **MIDI** push button will take you directly to the **MIDI Channel** parameter in the Sequence Menu whilst pressing the **FX Send** push button will set the

## 1.6 GETTING STARTED

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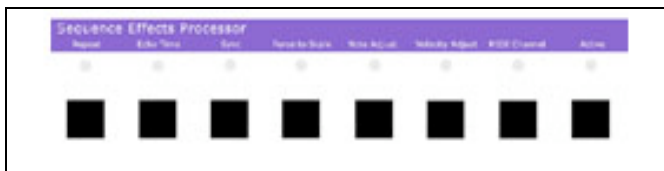
state of the **Effects Send** routing for the current sequence. This set up has been chosen to provide what we believe is the optimum playback environment.

Wherever possible, we've tried to stick to the rule that one button has only one function. However, the Clock Speed and Direction push buttons have different, though related, functions in normal mode and in shift mode – they simply extend the number of available clock and direction options. In normal mode, when you press one of the Clock Speed or Direction push buttons, then the associated LED will remain on all the time. When you're in shift mode then the associated LED will flash roughly twice a second.



Moving on, we come to the **Modifier** strip. On the left-hand side we have the **Low Frequency Oscillator** (LFO) controls. Each sequence has a LFO permanently wired into it and the output from the LFO can be routed to the Note Pitch, Note Velocity and both of the MIDI Continuous Controller signals to slowly modify the sequences generated in real time.

A **Sweep Generator** is also hard wired into the sequence control set up. We'll talk more about the Sweep Generator at a later stage.

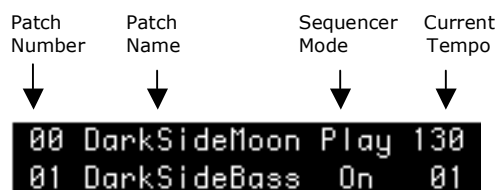


On the right-hand side of the Modifier strip, we have the **Effects Processor** strip. This bank of push buttons will take you directly to the relevant page in the Effects Processor Edit Menu.

Finally, we come to the **Quick Select** strip. Straight out of the box, these buttons call up the first page of the various edit menus and are used mostly for inspecting values, loading and saving records etc. We recommend that you go through these menus with the manual open at the section called "**The Menus in Detail**".

### *The Patch/Tempo Screen*

The **Patch/Tempo** screen is the first screen you see once the sequencer has finished starting up. It's also the screen you return to when you exit from the edit menus.

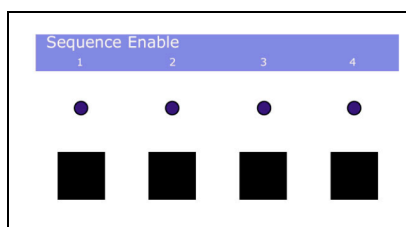


The top line of this page refers to the current **Patch**. The first parameter is the **Patch Record Number**. The next parameter is the **Patch Name**, which in the above example is "DarkSideMoon". To change the Patch Name you would go to the Patch Edit Menu.

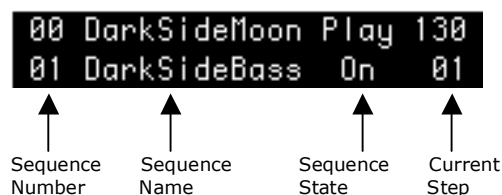
The third parameter is the **Sequencer Mode**, which is usually "Play" but can be "Comp" when you're using the composer plug-in or 'Morf' when you're using the sequence Morph facility.

The fourth and final parameter on the top line is the **Tempo** setting. When you're in this page you can use the *Data Wheel* to increase and decrease this value. You can increase the Tempo up to a maximum of 250 BPM and decrease down to a minimum of 30 BPM. Note that when synchronised to external MIDI equipment, this value is approximate only.

The second line tells you about the current sequence, which is selected using the **Sequence Select** push buttons at the bottom left of the front panel. There are 8 of these - one for every sequence.



In the above diagram, Sequence 1 is shown as the currently selected sequence. When selected, the LED above the relevant Sequence Select push button lights up and remains illuminated until you press another Sequence Select push button. Note that *ZEIT* has 8 sequences available at once. The above diagram shows only the first 4!

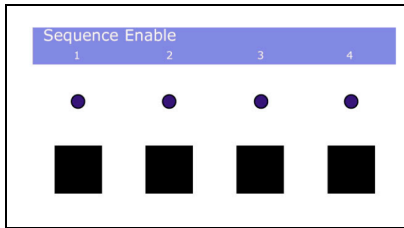


The first parameter on the second line is the **Sequence Number** for the current sequence and the second parameter is the **Sequence Name**. The third parameter is the

## 1.8 GETTING STARTED

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**Sequence State** and this parameter is either 'On', i.e. the sequence is playing, or 'Off', i.e. the sequence is silent.



You can change the Sequence State using the **Sequence Enable** push buttons on the front panel. These are immediately above the Sequence Select push buttons.

If a sequence is *active* (i.e. playing) then the LED above the relevant Sequence Enable push button will illuminate. If not then the LED will remain off. In the above example, Sequence 2 is active whilst sequences 1, 3 and 4 are not (i.e. they are muted).

If you press one of the Sequence Enable push buttons while you're in the Patch/Tempo page, the Sequence State will show either 'On' or 'Off'. If you're in any of the other edit pages then the instrument will jump to the Sequence State field in the **Sequence Play Menu**.

The fourth and final parameter on the second line is the **Current Step** for the current sequence. This two digit number is updated constantly whilst the sequencer is playing.

Next, we'll look at how you change data values to alter the way a sequence sounds.

### *The Menus and Data Entry*

We have tried to make the menu system as simple and as intuitive to use as possible.

Each menu consists of one or more **pages** and every menu page provides access to one or more **data fields**, each representing a sequencer **parameter**.

When you change a sequencer parameter from the front panel you are automatically dropped into the relevant page within the edit menu for that parameter and the cursor, a right chevron ('>') character, will point to the data field that you have just changed.

If you just want to check on a particular value, you can press one of the **Menu Quick Select** buttons and then use the navigation features to work your way through the menu.



Edit Page  
Reference



```

26 Sequence 7      Seq 01
Chan>01 Prog 001 Lvl 099

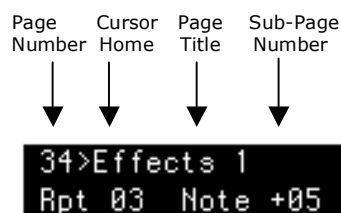
```

The menu pages themselves can be divided roughly into three groups:

- 1) those that affect sequences;
- 2) those that affect the current patch;
- 3) and those that govern the system setup and MIDI facilities.

Certain positions on the screen are important. The top left-hand corner of every menu page is the **Edit Page Reference**. In the above diagram, this reference is 26. You don't need to remember anything about the edit page number - it's there mainly to assist you when talking to our technical support staff.

Let's look at a typical menu page. Below is the Effects Repeat/Note Adjust page within the **MIDI Effects Processor Menu**.



```

34>Effects 1
Rpt 03 Note +05 Vel +20

```

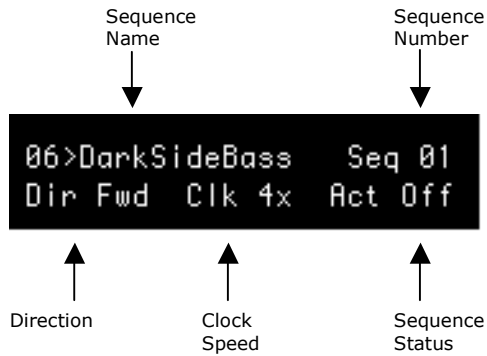
To the right of the page number is the **Cursor Home** position. When the cursor is in this position you can use the *Data Wheel* to navigate between the menu pages. Turning the wheel clockwise increments the page number and turning the wheel anti-clockwise decrements the page number. When you reach the end of the available menu pages, turning the *Data Wheel* has no effect.

To the right of the Home position is the **Page Title** and, in the majority of cases, this is followed by a **Sub-Page Number**.

In menu pages that refer to sequence parameters, you'll see the **Sequence Number** in the top right-hand corner of the display.

Let's look at the **Sequence Direction/Clock** page.

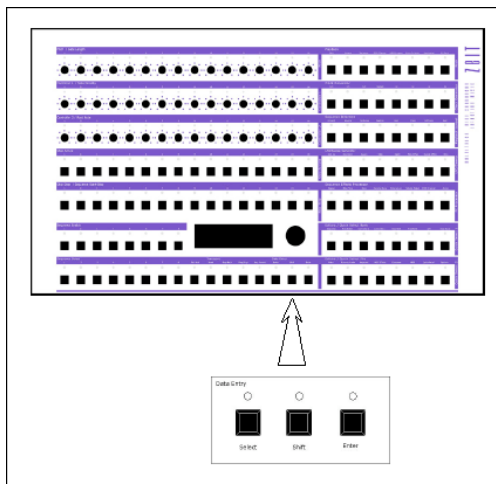
## 1.10 GETTING STARTED



In this example, the page title is actually the sequence name – this makes it easier to figure out which sequence you’re working with. We felt that it was OK to break our fairly strict presentation rules in this instance because it’s easy to get lost when you’re navigating around menus. We’re not fond of menus: that’s why *ZEIT* has so many buttons and knobs!

This page also has three data fields, a **Direction** parameter, the **Clock Rate** and the **Sequence Active Status**.

To navigate between data fields you press the *Enter* button which is located at the bottom right of the front panel, beneath the *Data Wheel*.

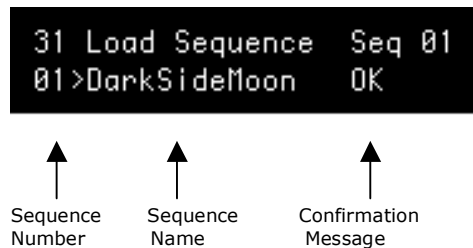


Every time you press the *Enter* button the LED flashes once and the cursor moves to the next field. The cursor always moves around the screen in a counter-clockwise direction. When you reach the last data field on the screen the cursor returns to the Home position. If there’s only one parameter on the screen then the cursor will return to the Home position immediately.

In certain pages you have to press the *Select* button before something will happen. The *Select* button is located near the *Enter* button at the bottom right-hand side of the front panel.

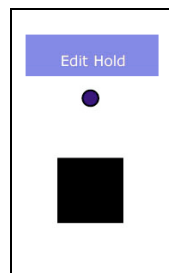
The diagram below shows the Load Sequence page in the **Sequence Play** menu.

To load a sequence, press the *Enter* button so that the cursor is sitting after the Sequence Record Number and before the Sequence Name. You can scroll through the available records until you find the one that you want. When you've found it, press the *Select* button to load the record. A confirmation message ('OK') will appear to let you know that the sequence has been loaded.



When you're saving a sequence record, scroll through the list of available locations and, when you find a suitable record, press the *Select* push button. Your sequence record will be saved and an *OK* confirmation message will be displayed.

If you're changing data values with the *Data Wheel* and you're at the top of the available data range then turning another click in the clockwise direction will *flip* the parameter to the bottom of the available data range. Likewise, if you're at the lowest available value for a parameter then one more click in the anti-clockwise direction will *flip* the parameter to the top of the available range.

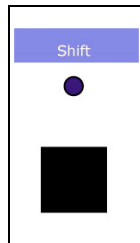


One final function that is a bit of an odd-ball and doesn't really fit in anywhere else is **Edit Hold**.

**Edit Hold** is a performance feature that, when enabled, lets you make a series of changes to the current sequence without those changes being passed to the *output driver*. When you switch off **Edit Hold** those changes are then copied up to the *output driver* all at once so your audience will hear a sudden change in the sequence. Of course, if your edits are not passed to the *output driver* then you can't hear them either. Hence, it's a useful tool but once you know what you're doing!

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*ZEIT* has two operating modes, *Normal* and *Shift* and the function of many of the push buttons on the front panel will change depending upon the current operating mode. We've tried to keep this dual functionality to an absolute minimum because it's a feature that the majority of users, including us, don't like! However, without *Shift* mode, *ZEIT* would have been double the size and we think you'll agree it's already big enough!



To make it easier to keep track of which mode you're in, the **Shift** LED flashes once a second when you're in *Shift* mode. When you're in *Normal* mode, the LED stays off.

